

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

a backing sheet releasably secured to the surface of said cover sheet facing said base sheet;

wherein said storage means is suitable for digestion together with said biological sample.

12. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein a hole punch takes a portion of said sample for analysis together with that part of the storage means in which it is encased.

13. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein said sample is digested in an alkali extraction.

14. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 10 wherein said sample is subjected to amplification by PCR and then DNA sequencing.

16. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the device is a sample collection device for collecting and storing a biological sample for subsequent analysis, comprising tamper-evident storage means for storing said sample, said storage means comprising:

a base sheet arranged so that the biological sample may be positioned thereon;

a cover sheet hingedly secured to said base sheet, said cover sheet being adapted for substantially irreversible adhesive securement to said base sheet over at least a substantial portion of their facing surfaces; and

a backing sheet releasably secured to the surface of said cover sheet facing said base sheet;

wherein said storage means is suitable for digestion together with said biological sample.

17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein said biological sample is stored for an extended period of time.

19. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the device is a sample collection device for collecting and storing a biological sample for subsequent analysis, comprising tamper-evident storage means for storing said sample, said storage means comprising:

a base sheet arranged so that the biological sample may be positioned thereon;

a cover sheet hingedly secured to said base sheet, said cover sheet being adapted for substantially irreversible adhesive securement to said base sheet over at least a substantial portion of their facing surfaces; and

a backing sheet releasably secured to the surface of said cover sheet facing said base sheet;

wherein said storage means is suitable for digestion together with said biological sample.

20. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein a portion of said sample is punched out of the sample collection device with a hole punch.

21. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein said sample is digested in an alkali extraction.

22. (Amended) A method according to claim 18 wherein said sample is subjected to amplification by PCR and then DNA sequencing.

26. (Amended) A sample collection device as claimed in claim 23 wherein the base sheet is paper.